

Easton-Joy House, also known as Obed Joy House
4 North Water Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-957

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MASS
10-NANT
67-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

EASTON-JOY HOUSE, also known as Obed Joy House

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Location: 4 North Water Street (on west side)
Nantucket, Massachusetts (Erroneously
called No. 2 -- a garage facing on Broad
Street now occupies the land at No. 2
North Water Street).

Present Owners: Dr. Wylie L. and Louise W. Collins

Present Occupant: Guests of Collins family

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement
of Significance: House is an unusual example of carpenter classic
with gothic window and other unrelated architectural
details.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- c. 1846 -- Built by Edward F. Easton, housewright,
soon after the Great Fire destroyed all
buildings at this location.
- 1862 -- Thankful L. Joy, wife of Obed Hervey Joy,
bought from Edward F. Easton for \$800.
- 1901 -- Lizzie S. Riddell bought from Annie E.
Hodge and Charles L. Joy, who had inherited
from their mother, Thankful L. Joy.
- 1922 -- Carrie Joy Peck under will of Lizzie S.
Riddell.
- 1938 -- Frederick W. and Carrie Joy Peck
- 1955 -- George M. and Louise V. Lake by deed
from Carrie J. Peck, widow
- 1955 to date -- Wylie L. and Louise W. Collins
(Abstract: Records Registry Deeds, Nantucket, Mass.)

- 2. Date of erection: Soon after 1846. When Edward F.
Easton sold the property in 1862, the deed stated that
the house was built on land he bought from the heirs
of Micajah, Peleg and Amaziah Gardner (sons of John

and Keziah (Coffin) Gardner). This indicates that the house was built between the fire of 1846 and 1862, when it was sold, and as Edward F. Easton was married in 1848, he probably built the house for his home soon after 1846. (Abstract: Vital Statistics, Town of Nantucket, Massachusetts)

3. Architect: None. Built by Edward F. Easton, who was a housewright.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known. Built much as it now stands, but with the back shed separate from the house. It has exterior fluted columns around three sides and painted gable windows. The name-plate "Obed Joy" is still on the front door.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: In recent years the shed has been connected with the house and made into two bedrooms and bath.

At some undetermined time a Masonic emblem window was placed in the south living room and a window in the dining room has colored panes.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Obed Joy, mariner, whose name-plate is on the front door of this house, captained many voyages to the whaling grounds on such ships as the Hope, Atlas, Three Sons (lost on the Coast of Patagonia in southern Argentina, August 30, 1815), and the Brig Indus to Patagonia for elephant oil and Brazil for whale oil. The last voyage noted was in 1819 when he was fifty-two years of age. It is recorded that Obed Joy, mariner, died at Nantucket in 1845 of "old age," he being aged seventy-eight.

Obed Hervey Joy, his son, was born in 1803 while his father was at sea on Ship Hope in the South Atlantic whaling grounds. He and his wife Thankful were living in this house in 1862, but the name-plate on the door was quite probably inherited from the father, Obed Joy, mariner.

The two streets, now North and South Water, were in 1799 one street, called Water Street, although there was a decided jog at Broad Street. In 1811 North Water Street was known as Mitchell Street because at that time it was inhabited by so many families of that name. In 1846 all of the buildings in the vicinity of No. 4 North Water Street were destroyed by fire.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Small photograph of house before street was paved in possession of Mrs. Wylie L. Collins; photograph of Obed Joy and family in possession of

Mrs. Collins; recent photograph "Shadows Across North Water Street," showing the house by Louis S. Davidson, copy in Scrapbook Collection of Miss Grace Brown Gardner (microfilm in Nantucket Athenaeum); stereopticon of North Water Street, c. 1885, by J. Freeman (?), in collection of Nantucket Historical Association (copy in HABS photo-data book).

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
June, 1968

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. They are part of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, July 1971.

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